

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
AUGUSTA DIVISION

TEMESHIA HARRIS,)
Plaintiff,)
v.) CV 123-011
EQUIFAX INC.; EXPERIAN)
INFORMATION SOLUTIONS INC.;)
and TRANSUNION LLC,)
Defendants.)

MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

According to Local Rule 4.1, the commencement of a civil action requires compliance with four specific criteria, including the presentation of the original complaint and the appropriate filing fee, or the original complaint and a petition to proceed *in forma pauperis* (“IFP”). On January 31, 2023, Plaintiff submitted to the Court a complaint for filing, (doc. no. 1), but she did not pay the filing fee or submit a motion to proceed IFP. Upon opening the case, the Clerk of Court sent Plaintiff a deficiency notice regarding the need to pay the \$402 filing fee or file a motion to proceed IFP, and set a twenty-one-day deadline for compliance. (See doc. no. 2.) The notice explained failure to correct the deficiency could result in dismissal. (See id.) Plaintiff failed to respond to the Clerk’s deficiency notice.

A district court has authority to manage its docket to expeditiously resolve cases, and this authority includes the power to dismiss a case for failure to prosecute or failure to comply with a court order. Equity Lifestyle Props., Inc. v. Fla. Mowing & Landscape Serv.,

Inc., 556 F.3d 1232, 1240 (11th Cir. 2009) (citing Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b)); see also Eades v. Ala. Dep’t of Human Res., 298 F. App’x 862, 863 (11th Cir. 2008) (*per curiam*) (“District courts possess the ability to dismiss a case . . . for want of prosecution based on two possible sources of authority: Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b) or their inherent authority to manage their dockets.”). Moreover, the Local Rules of the Southern District of Georgia dictate that an “assigned Judge may, after notice to counsel of record, *sua sponte* . . . dismiss any action for want of prosecution, with or without prejudice . . . [for] [w]illful disobedience or neglect of any order of the Court; or [a]ny other failure to prosecute a civil action with reasonable promptness.” Loc. R. 41.1 (b) & (c).

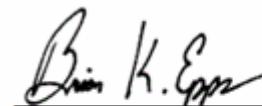
Plaintiff did not comply with the requirements for commencing a civil action by filing a complaint unaccompanied by the full filing fee or a motion to proceed IFP, and when given the opportunity to correct the deficiency, Plaintiff failed to respond to the Clerk’s notice. Plaintiff’s failure to comply with the filing requirements of the Local Rules and her failure to respond to the Clerk’s deficiency notice, amounts not only to a failure to prosecute, but also an abandonment of her case.

In sum, the time to respond has passed, and Plaintiff has not paid the filing fee or submitted a motion to proceed IFP as required.¹ Accordingly, the Court **REPORTS** and

¹For the sake of completeness, the Court notes Plaintiff filed a second case the same day she filed the instant case. See Harris v. World Finance Corp. of Ga., LLC, CV 123-012 (S.D. Ga. Jan. 31, 2023). In the second case, the Court recommended denying the motion to proceed IFP, and Plaintiff paid the full filing fee. Id., doc. nos. 2, 4 & doc. entry dated Feb. 22, 2023.

RECOMMENDS that this case be **DISMISSED** without prejudice and **CLOSED**.

SO REPORTED and RECOMMENDED this 27th day of February, 2023, at Augusta, Georgia.



BRIAN K. EPPS
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA